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ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND
PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Forty-first session

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 1st TO 40th MEETINGS

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 7 August to 1 September 1989

Corrigendum

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The present document contains the corrections received from participants and from the Secretariat applying to the English text of the summary records of the public meetings of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-first session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/SR.1-25, 25/Add.1, 26-28, 31/Add.1, 32-35, 35/Add.1, 36, 37, 37/Add.1, 38-40, 40/Add.1 and 40/Add.3).

The Sub-Commission also held five closed meetings, the summary records of which (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/SR.28/Add.1, 29-31 and 40/Add.2) were issued in restricted distribution. The corrections to the records of the closed meetings appear in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/SR.1-40/Corrigendum/Add.1, which was also issued in restricted distribution.

With the issuance of the corrigenda (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/SR.1-40/Corrigendum and Add.1), the summary records of the meetings held by the Sub-Commission at its forty-first session are to be considered as final.

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1st meeting

Paragraph 2, line 6

For (Argentina) read (Ecuador)

3rd meeting

Page 1, line 7

For Tuesday, 8 September 1989, read Tuesday, 8 August 1989,

5th meeting

Page 1, last line of masthead

For Original: ENGLISH read Original: FRENCH

Paragraph 20, line 9

For that religion read those religions

7th meeting

Paragraph 43, line 9

For any criminal intention. read any element of intent.

10th meeting

Paragraph 24, line 2

For German Democratic Republic read Federal Republic of Germany

Page 6, line 16

Delete 24.

16th meeting

Paragraph 1

Line 1: delete the

Line 2: for the existing text substitute

Disabled People's International, Human Rights Advocates Inc., the Indigenous World Association, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the International Association of Educators for World Peace, the International Commission of Health Professionals for Health and Human Rights, the International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Liberation, the Minority Rights Group, the Procedural Aspects of International Law Institute and the Union of Arab Jurists, noted with satisfaction the

18th meeting

Paragraph 49, lines 9 and 10

The fifth sentence should read

On 5 June teachers had asked for a wage increase to help to alleviate the serious economic situation.

Paragraph 50

Line 10: for 10 May read 20 May

Line 15: for (CIEPODH) read (CIEPRODH)

20th meeting

Paragraph 37

Line 19: for put read disproved

23rd meeting

Paragraph 38

For the existing text substitute

38. Mr. GOKCE (Observer for Turkey) drew the Sub-Commission's attention to the situation of the Muslim minority of Turkish origin which, since 1984, had been subjected to a policy of forced assimilation and repression by the Bulgarian Government. The Bulgarian Government had launched in late 1984 a massive campaign designed to assimilate forcibly the 1.5 million strong Turkish minority by suddenly adopting the position of outright and total denial of the very existence of such a minority in Bulgaria, in violation of the provisions of international instruments and bilateral agreements. The Bulgarian authorities were systematically depriving the Turkish minority of its ethnic, cultural and religious identity, and to that end were engaging in brutal methods of repression, even endangering the right to life of members of the minority. All Bulgarian citizens of Turkish origin had been forced to change their names, all local publications and broadcasts in Turkish ended, the teaching of Turkish in minority schools stopped, and even conversing in Turkish had been made a punishable offence; their freedom of worship had been drastically curtailed and, as a religious custom, circumcision had been forbidden. Those protesting these measures had met with acts of brutal repression and many had been forced into internal exile. The number of people killed or wounded during that period was not known exactly, but several human rights organizations had documented the violent acts perpetrated at that time. The reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were particularly eloquent in that respect, giving testimony to the fact that Bulgaria was not fulfilling its international human rights obligations regarding the Muslim Turkish minority in that country.

READEX FICHE

Paragraph 39

For the existing text substitute

39. On many occasions, Turkey had officially invited the Bulgarian authorities to restore the Turkish minority's status and rights and to sign with Turkey a voluntary emigration agreement. Faced with the increasingly strong reaction of the international community and Turkey's determined attitude, the Bulgarian Government had finally agreed to conclude the Belgrade Protocol of 23 February 1988. That had given rise to hopes that the ordeal of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria would come to an end through that process, but the subsequent negotiations had soon shown that Bulgaria had had no intention of altering its stance and had merely sought to exploit the dialogue in order to avoid attracting the attention of the international community, while maintaining its position of denying the very existence of the Muslim Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

Paragraph 40, line 4

For on a policy of forcing citizens of Turkish origin to leave read on a more radical method of getting rid of its citizens of Turkish origin by forcing them to leave

Paragraph 41

In line 3, for endeavouring read attempting

At the end of the paragraph insert

That explanation, which was no less than an affront to human intelligence, was certainly not less serious than the abhorrent event of forced exodus itself. There had been more than a quarter of a million "tourists" in three months, 5,000 a day, and they were all of Turkish origin. They were all going in one direction, the Turkish border. He wondered if the time had come to send the Bulgarian Government a note thanking it for its contribution to the Turkish tourism industry.

Paragraph 43, last sentence

For the existing text substitute

The Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Assembly, various political parties, and inter-party and non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights issues had denounced the policies of oppression pursued by Bulgaria. A contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was engaged in a continuous investigation of the tragedy of the Muslim Turkish minority. At the Humanitarian Dimension meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe held in Paris in May 1989, the Bulgarian Government had been accused of being in violation of human rights and the pertinent articles of the Vienna Concluding Document of the Conference, of which Bulgaria was a signatory, and had been sharply criticized. The point he wanted to make was that Bulgaria was in gross and flagrant violation of human rights and the international community was reacting to that violation. Needless to say, a less than

adequate reaction against such methods of doing away with minorities would not only raise the question of the credibility of professed principles and beliefs but also would constitute an encouragement for those who might be in search of solutions to similar problems to resort to the same methods. His delegation was, therefore, confident that the Sub-Commission, which had always displayed keen sensitivity to human rights violations, would address this very serious violation in a manner commensurate with its gravity.

Paragraph 80, line 8

For the existing text substitute

minority" in all the bilateral instruments and Bulgarian statements issued before the end of 1984, including the statements made by Mr. Zhivkov and reports of Bulgaria submitted to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. He held

Paragraph 82

Line 5: between the second and third sentences insert they seemed to think that once the size of the minority was reduced, the assimilation campaign would be more easily enforced.

Line 8: delete still

Paragraph 95, last sentence

For the existing text substitute

Turkey was willing to engage in serious negotiations with Bulgaria, within the framework of an agenda giving due importance and priority to this humanitarian issue commensurate with its gravity.